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# FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

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## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### COMMISSION SENDS STRATEGIC PLAN TO CONGRESS

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has sent its Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2000 to 2005 to Congress, stressing that its overall goal is to meet the nation's needs for energy markets and infrastructure through responsive, flexible regulation.

The plan notes that the Commission is the main catalyst in changing the North American energy industries' monopoly structure, bringing competition to these massive markets in a context of global economic change.

Strategic plans are sent to Congress every three years as required by the Government Performance and Results Act.

To achieve its overall goal, the Commission intends to ensure benefits for consumers by establishing a fair, open and efficient regulatory foundation for competition in energy markets. It will also foster economic and environmental benefits through the approval and oversight of energy projects that are in the public interest.

The plan outlines key strategies that will allow the Commission to achieve these pro-competitive goals.

It will continue to regulate essential monopoly facilities such as electric transmission lines and natural gas pipelines. And it will permit market-based pricing of energy only where market power does not exist or has been mitigated. Where market power persists, the Commission may approve other innovative approaches, such as an index or performance-based rates.

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It will continue to nurture competitive market situations.

Foremost on the Commission's agenda for the electric industry is to facilitate and encourage the development of regional transmission organizations (RTOs), multi-state, multi-utility grid management institutions that will provide for more efficient and non-discrimination operation of transmission systems to accommodate the snowballing demand for wholesale electricity.

The Commission will also encourage the development of e-commerce, particularly the Open Access Same-time Information System (OASIS) for posting services available on the electric transmission grid and electronic bulletin boards (EBBs) for posting services available on the natural gas pipeline grid.

The Commission will continue to monitor and limit the potential anticompetitive effects of corporate consolidation.

It will also facilitate the responsible development of natural gas pipeline capacity to meet anticipated increases in market demand.

The strategic plan may be viewed on the Commission's website at [www.ferc.fed.us](http://www.ferc.fed.us).

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